United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/190

Meeting of States Parties

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Special Meeting
New York, 6 March 2009

Report of the Special Meeting of States Parties

I. Introduction

1. The Special Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was held at Headquarters on 6 March 2009 to elect one member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, in accordance with article 4 of annex VI to the Convention (Statute of the Tribunal). The election was to fill, for the remainder of the term ending on 30 September 2014, the seat vacated by the demise of Judge Choon-Ho Park (Republic of Korea) on 12 November 2008. Pursuant to article 6, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Tribunal, the date of the election was fixed by the President of the Tribunal after consultation with the States parties.

2. The Meeting had before it the following documents: a note by the Registrar of the Tribunal on the election procedures (SPLOS/185); the list of candidates nominated by States parties (SPLOS/186); and the curricula vitae of candidates nominated by the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia (SPLOS/187).

II. Opening of the Special Meeting

3. Yuriy Sergeyev (Ukraine), President of the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties, opened the Special Meeting.

4. The Meeting observed a minute of silence in memory of the late Judge Choon-Ho Park.

5. For the purposes of conducting its business, the Special Meeting decided to retain the composition of the Bureau,[1] including the Presidency, as elected, and the composition of the Credentials Committee as appointed by the Eighteenth Meeting. In doing so, the Meeting followed the practice established by the first Special Meeting of States Parties, held in August 2003, and followed by the Special Meeting of States Parties held on 30 January 2008 (see SPLOS/170, para. 5).

[1] With one replacement: Katy Lin (Australia) replaced Dean Marc Bialek (Australia) as Vice-President.

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III. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. The President introduced the provisional agenda (SPLOS/L.58). The Meeting adopted the agenda (SPLOS/188) and approved the organization of work, as outlined by the President.

IV. Report of the Credentials Committee

7. The Credentials Committee held its meeting on 6 March 2009 under the Chairmanship of Miriam Mac Intosh (Suriname). Following that meeting, the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee introduced the report of the Credentials Committee (SPLOS/189). She stated that the Committee had examined and accepted the credentials of representatives to the Special Meeting from 156 States parties to the Convention. The Special Meeting then approved the report of the Committee.

V. Election of one member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

8. The President made a statement on the election procedures, recalling articles 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Statute of the Tribunal, as well as rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.4).

9. The election required one round of balloting during which the representatives of Egypt, Haiti, Portugal and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia acted as tellers.

10. Of the 155 ballots cast, with no invalid ballot and no abstentions, a majority of 104 votes was required for the election, provided that such majority included a majority of the States parties (79, at the time of the election). In the first round of balloting, Jin-Hyun Paik (Republic of Korea) received 113 votes and was thus elected for the remainder of his predecessor's term of nine years, which ends on 30 September 2014.

11. The President made a statement congratulating Mr. Paik on his election as a member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.